



# Newsletter



April 2018

Volume 13 No. 4

## From the Pastor by Pastor Mark Schulz

### The Risen Christ

**“Don’t be amazed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is risen. He is not here. See the place where they laid him.” Mark 16:6**

His is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Christians everywhere rejoice on this day of days that changed all of history. Had Jesus remained in the tomb, you would not be reading this, churches would not exist, and Christianity would likely be known only to ancient historians. For the Apostle Paul, the matter was simple. “If in Christ, we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied”. (1 Corinthians 15:19). Paul’s hope was based on fact; he saw the risen Jesus on the Damascus Road.

For centuries arguments have been raised against Jesus’ Resurrection. One of the earliest might be called “the lettuce theory”. A gardener supposedly planted new lettuce seedlings in front of Jesus’ tomb. Visitors trampled the seedlings, so the gardener moved Jesus’ body to another tomb. This foolish theory was reported by the church father Tertullian as skeptics’ early attempt to explain away the Resurrection.

The Resurrection truly happened, with Christ’s promise that it will also

happen to all who believe. Our faith is based on fact, not on myth, fantasy or fable. Thank God! A Blessed Easter to all.

*Prayer: O glorious Victor, your triumph over death itself is the core of our faith. Praise and thanks to you that your conquest is ours. Keep us in the true faith until our blessed reunion at the end of time, when we will personally praise and endlessly thank you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen...*

## President’s Message

After an inspiring Lenten season, centered this year on the sermon theme “Words of life from the Cross”, we once again witnessed the greatest act of love the world has ever known. “God gave his all” because he loves us. He wants us to be a part of his family. He wants us with him forever in heaven. He tells us clearly: God “wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

Just how much does God love us? Enough to send his only begotten son to the cross of Calvary. And Jesus readily accepted the will of His father. When he could have chosen a royal crown and an earthly kingdom, he instead chose a crown of thorns and a cross of His own.

Place the words of the following anonymous poem in your memory and keep them close to your heart.

## The Cross Was His Own

They borrowed a bed to lay his head  
When Christ the Lord came down; they  
borrowed the donkey in the mountain  
pass for Him to ride to town. But the  
crown that He wore and the Cross that  
He bore were His own -The Cross was his  
Own.

He borrowed the bread when the crowd  
He fed on the grassy mountain side, He  
borrowed the dish of broken fish with  
which He satisfied. But the crown that  
he wore and the Cross that He bore were  
His own – The Cross was His Own.

He borrowed the ship in which to sit to  
teach the multitude; He borrowed a nest  
in which to rest-He had never a home so  
rude. But the crown that He wore and  
the Cross that he bore were His own -  
The Cross was His Own

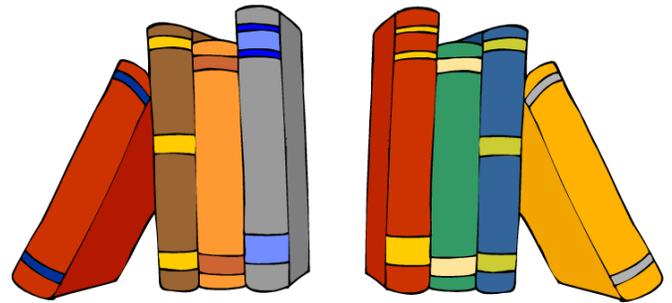
He borrowed a room on His way to the  
tomb The Passover Lamb to eat; they  
borrowed a cave for Him a grave. They  
borrowed a winding sheet. But the  
crown that He wore and the Cross that  
He bore were His own –The Cross was  
His Own

Jesus died and rose again on Easter  
Sunday to rescue us from our sins and  
reconcile us with God. The sin has been  
punished and we are safe – safe in the  
shadow of the cross.

Next time you enter our beautiful  
Sanctuary, please pause for a moment  
and gaze at the stunning crucifix above  
the altar. What you are looking at is the  
width of Christ's love for you. He  
stretched out His arms and had them  
nailed in that position, so you and I could  
always know the incomparable riches of  
his grace, mercy and His love for us that

he was willing to die for. Thanks Be to  
God.

All God's Blessings,  
Greg Wendorf



## Open Bible Library

A reminder that any books that people  
have out should be returned so they can  
be added to the list being compiled for  
our library. Nancy Kuepher has been  
marking the books as part of the Open  
Bible Collection and putting pockets in  
the inside. Check out procedures will be  
pretty simple. Find a book you are  
interested in, sign your name, phone  
number and date on the card , remove it  
and put it in the box on the shelf. When  
you are finished return the book to the  
basket marked for returns. They will be  
returned to the shelf by the library  
volunteers. If you have questions, please  
contact Peggi Carrier. Her phone number  
is 906-753-4930.

## Bible Stumper Question of the Month: Who was Mary Magdalene?

This particular Mary was one of the  
most extraordinary women in the Bible.  
She is the only visitor to the tomb on the  
First Easter who is named in all four

Gospels. Her weeping at the tomb is transformed by the risen Lord into supreme joy-one of the most memorable scenes in the Resurrection accounts. She has been called "the Apostle to the Apostles" for announcing the good news to them.

Mary came from Magdala, a town on the west central shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus cast out "seven demons" from her, which means that he cured her psychological problems, not that she was a witch. She remained cured, serving as a leader of the Galilean "women's guild" that supported Jesus and his disciples.

Would that the church and the world had let it go at that. Pope Gregory the Great misidentified her as the sinful woman in Luke 7:37. Others have wrongly cast her as a prostitute. Pseudo-scholars today try to marry off Jesus, with Mary Magdalene as the favorite "Mrs. Jesus". Yet there is not a shred of evidence in sacred or secular sources that Jesus ever married. Christian theology would be extremely complicated had he done so.

## **Radio Ministry is back!**



We have begun a new Radio Ministry on Sunday's at 103.5 "The Shepherd." Our time slot is 11:05 – 11:30am. We will officially begin Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.



Lutheran Women's Missionary Society is for all the women in a WELS member congregation. It exists to increase awareness of and interest in, and support of the mission outreach of the WELS. It supports both Home and World mission projects. The particular projects that will be sponsored during the year are announced at the LWMS Convention held in June of each year. The 55th Convention will be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin. If you are not ready to make the Convention one of your summer highlights, consider attending the North Florida Circuit Rally of LWMS this fall. Open Bible is hosting the Fall Rally on Oct. 20th. Come find out more about our WELS mission programs and make new friends. Look for more information in the coming Newsletters. Mary Burel is the out-going Vice President of the North Florida Circuit of LWMS, Peggi Carrier is the Reporter for our congregation, and Jane Valley is the President of our local WINGS group. For more information about the Conference in Green Bay, the Rally in October and activities of the WINGS group just ask these ladies.

## **Small Group Ministry**

### **The Defenders**

Led by: Bill Sigurdson & Jim Johnson  
The Defenders will meet Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Meet at Wolfy's in Ocala, at 11:30am for lunch, then on to R & D Tactical in Ocala for a little practice.

### **Happy Hearts, Happy Hands Handiwork**

Facilitator is Sandy Pawlowski  
The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – noon. This group creates quilts for those in need in our community. Also, does knitting, crochet, and embroidery. So, if you have any craft project you are working on, please come and enjoy the fellowship.

### **Journey with Jesus Bible Study**

Led by: Judy Hainen  
Journey with Jesus Bible Study will be every Monday beginning April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am. Please call Judy if you would like to come. We meet at various homes. Topic this semester is "End Times--Practical Heavenly Mindedness" by R. Paul Stevens.

### **Fellowship Group**

Led by: Dan & Karen Pearson, Joe & Paula Malec  
A fellowship activity is being planned for April 28<sup>th</sup>. We will be going to the Gypsy Gold Horse Farm in Ocala for a tour at 10:00am. The cost of the tour is \$20.00 per person. A sign-up sheet will be available. If you have any questions, please ask Joe, Paula, Karen or Dan.

**Men of Leisure**—Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group: Led by Dennis Duessler  
This month the meeting will be on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Meet at the Bob Evans Restaurant on CR466.

### **WinGS:** Women in God's Service

Led by: Jane Valley  
The WinGS Womens group meets the second Wednesday of each month. April 11<sup>th</sup> will be or next meeting at 1:00pm. Come and find out what that's all about!

**SPLASH:** Single People Loving and Serving Him, Led by: Pastor Rodger Dale

SPLASH is meeting on Monday April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 1 pm for a Bible Study. The Topic: Heaven-Seeing God Face To Face." If you are new to the church or know someone interested in joining us for our Bible study, come join us. SPLASH is open to singles. This is not a match making function, but rather organized to share our faith and grow through caring for others. Other activities are planned for Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm. All are invited to go see "The Wedding Singer" at Leesburg Mellon Patch Theater. The play is a version of the Adam Sandler movie and is hailed as one of his best. All members of Open Bible are welcome to participate. Tickets are \$16.00 per person. Payment for tickets are to be made to Ina Taylor.

### **North Country Group**

Facilitator: Alan Johnson  
This Bible Study will be on Sundays, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Meet at Alan & Pam Johnson's home in Ocala. The Topic: The Book of Acts.

### **Ladies Tuesday Bible Study**

Led by Pam Johnson  
The Ladies Bible Study will continue Tuesday's at 1:00 pm in April. No meeting on April 3rd. Topic is "Gospel in Psalms" lesson #3. Please contact Pam Johnson at 352-390-6982, if you will be attending.

**466A Group Bible Study:** The group is led by Pastor Rodger Dale. The April Bible Studies will be on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at the home of Bob & Margie O'Connell and on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jim & Eva Orcutt. The

meeting time is 2:00pm. The topic is: "The Bible's Teaching of Predestination."

### **Friday Fore-Giving Golfers**

Facilitator is Sandy Fehlhaber  
This group meets once a week on Friday afternoons to golf the Executive courses in The Villages. Teams are determined by the Sunday prior to the golf date. Each golfer is equipped with a small plastic bag with extra-long tees and a business card from Open Bible to hand out to unchurched golfers. Contact Sandy at [jim.fehlhaber@gmail.com](mailto:jim.fehlhaber@gmail.com)

**Saturday Duffers Golfing** outside The Villages. Join a group of golfers at different Golf courses on Saturdays. If interested, please contact Joe Malec: [MalecJoe@gmail.com](mailto:MalecJoe@gmail.com)

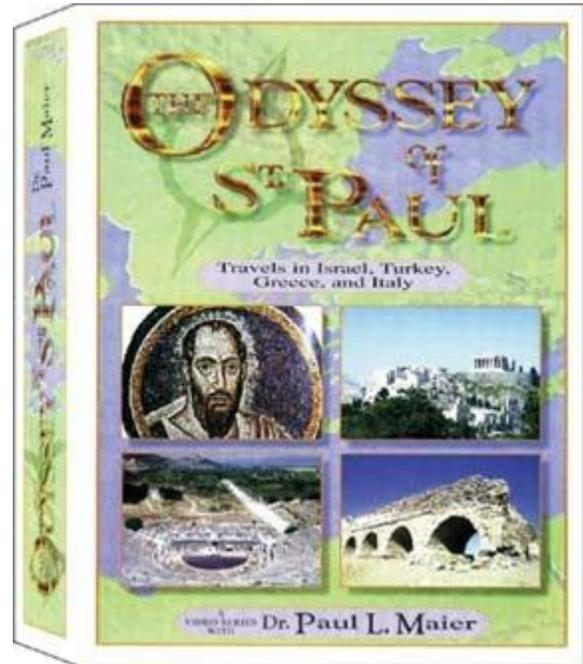
**Sunrise Saturday Morning Golfers:**  
A new group is formed for those of you that would like to golf at The Villages executive golf courses in the morning. This group's coordinator is Leslie Nelson. She will try to schedule starting times about 8:30 – 10:00am. So, if you are interested, she will need your information by Sunday to make the request. Contact her at: [Leslien42@comcast.net](mailto:Leslien42@comcast.net)

## **Handbells**



Director: Pam Johnson  
Excitement! Is happening here at Open Bible. The handbells played for the Palm Sunday service. One number was played as the choir sang "Hosanna." The full handbell choir played a beautiful "Ode to Joy" for the offertory song. Members are: Carol Benrud, Jean Butts, Peggi Carrier,

Amy Hand, Carol Mehlberg, Mark Mehlberg, Jeanne Schulz, Mary Shara, & Doug Tharp. We are very blessed to have the opportunity to start our own handbell choir! If you are interest, or have played handbells before, please speak to Pam Johnson.



**The Odyssey of St. Paul  
Wednesday in the Word  
Begins April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 P.M.  
8 Weeks**

Aside from Jesus himself, no one has had a greater influence on the founding of Christianity than Paul of Tarsus. Among his many achievements, three are of prime importance: 1) as a powerful, tireless missionary, he spread the faith to Asia Minor, Greece, and Italy; 2) his letters, which form much of the New Testament, present a basic theology for Christianity; and 3) more than anyone else, he brought Gentiles into the early church, not only Jews, thus "universalizing" the faith.

**April 11:** Young Saul: A survey of his roots in Tarsus and education in Jerusalem, as well as his conversion on the Damascus Road.

**April 18<sup>th</sup>:** The New Saul: His desert experience and early ministry in Cilicia

**April 25<sup>th</sup>:** The First Mission Journey: Paul and Barnabas bring the Gospel to Cyprus, Pamphylia, and Galatia

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Quarrels & The Second Missionary Journey: A great dispute is solved by the Apostolic Council in Jerusalem. Paul defends The Gospel in Antioch, and then takes Silas on a second missionary Journey.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>:** The Second Mission Journey & Greece: Paul arrives in Philippi, travels to Thessalonica and Athens, and anchors his ministry in Corinth

**May 16<sup>th</sup>:** The Third Mission Journey: Ephesus in Asia Minor is the target of Paul's campaign for Christ.

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Arrest & Imprisonment: Paul is attacked at the temple in Jerusalem, and is tried before the Roman governors Felix and Festus.

**May 30<sup>th</sup>:** The Voyage to Rome: Having appealed to the emperor, Paul sails to Rome but is shipwrecked in Malta. The following spring, he arrives in Italy and welcomes his fate in Rome.

## Buffalo Crossings

Facilitator: Pastor Rodger Dale. Pastor Dale is conducting Bible studies at Buffalo Crossing on the first and third Mondays at 1:00pm. He is sharing Stories for Faith from the Bible. The residents at Buffalo Crossing are happy to have God's word come to them.

## Care for the Care Givers

Meeting, Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Carol Yahn will share about her experience as a caregiver.

A group has been established for members who are caregivers for loved ones and friends. Whether it is Alzheimer-Dementia, or chronic illness, all are invited to join us on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 2 pm. The meeting includes a brief devotional for encouragement and then attendees share their concerns, challenges, and lessons learned. All benefit through interaction with each other. Together we can persist through difficult times. The greatest obstacle is isolation and believing "we can handle our own challenges," alone. This support is not limited to only church members, so if you know someone that needs help bring them to the meetings.

## The Christian Estate Planning Seminar

To assist you with your estate plans, our church is sponsoring a Christian estate planning seminar. And one part of a Christian estate plan is making sure your beneficiaries and will are up-to-date. Come and find out why this is important. Come and learn what can be done by a signature and how a will can be made that reflects what's in your heart. You will also have an opportunity to schedule a private consultation with a Christian giving counselor to have your questions answered. This is a service offered by our WELS synod. It is **confidential**, and there is **no cost to you**.

Watch the church bulletin for details regarding this Christian estate planning seminar which is scheduled for Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00pm. Please plan to attend!

## Easter Lily Plants

The Altar Guild has purchased Easter Lily plants for Easter Sunday, April 1st. If you would like to donate for the purchase of these plants the cost is \$7.00 per plant. You may pay in cash or write a check to Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church, place in the offering plate & indicate the amount is for the Flower Fund/Easter Lilies. The plants may be taken home after the last Easter Sunday service. If you have questions, contact Carol Stauske at 352-292-3079.



## LWMS NEWS

LWMS Rally, Spring 2018

As outgoing, North Florida Vice President, I attended the Spring Rally (LWMS) in Deltona at Good Shepherd Lutheran with Jeanette Kellam. In the past we've (Open Bible) been able to bring home the trophy for the most ladies in attendance from one church. This spring it was won by Risen Savior in Orlando with 10 in attendance but at least we were represented. After registration and coffee time the opening devotion was led by Pastor Goelzer in the sanctuary. He is new to the congregation; arriving in November. It was based on Romans 16:3-5. About have mercy, show mercy and share mercy. The reports were presented

including Mission highlights given by Pastor Jay Zahn of Palm Coast. Election of officers was done by ballot for Vice President, secretary, Spiritual Growth Laywoman and Pastoral Advisor. The members voted for "outreach through English" to help mission congregations that are in changing neighborhoods as the Home Mission project. They selected the Central Africa Medical Mission as the World Mission Project. The buildings are in dire need of repair. I'm sure many remember that mission of the past and making diapers and bandages for the nurses to use in the clinics.

Open Bible members donated several hand-made items which were enough to fill 2 baskets. They were a part of a silent auction where proceeds were used to fund our "Send One Sister" project which allows one lady to attend the National Convention for the first time. The lady selected was a member in Deltona. The convention this year will be in Green Bay, Wisconsin in June. Registration information can be found on the LWMS website.

A soup and sandwich lunch was served at noon with time to browse the silent auction offerings and bid. After lunch the guest speaker was Katie Martin – wife of European Chaplain Josh Martin!

Katie's topic was "Civilian Chaplaincy in Europe; wife & mother's view" Based on Psalm 1:3. This was a subject near to my heart, because my sister Sarah & family have lived in Switzerland for 25 years. They hosted the Martin family monthly and were fed the precious word and were able to enjoy the fellowship of Christians

that would come together. It was interesting to learn the personal experience of living and witnessing in a foreign land to people hungering for salvation and fellowship.

The Rally ended with the installation of officers and announcement of the auction winners. Open Bible is hosting the Fall Rally October 20<sup>th</sup>. Dawn Schultz will give a presentation about the difference in ministry going from Toronto, Ontario to a new mission in Doral, Florida. Pastor Zahn led the closing devotion.

Submitted by, Mary Burel

### Did You Know?

**Can Collection:** Bring your “crushed” & “rinsed” cans to church on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Put your cans in the back of the red car parked out in front of church. Thank you from the Women of Open Bible.

**Food Pantry Collection:** Please bring non-perishable food items on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. A collection bin is located by the front doors. Gordon & Shirley Roback will take the items to the donation site for the Wildwood Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen.

**The 2018 Flower Calendar** has been placed on the bulletin board near the water fountain. The cost is \$35.00 per arrangement or \$70.00 for both. Please indicate on your envelope payment is for “flowers”. Two families may sign up for a Sunday and share the cost. If you have questions, please call Carol Stauske at 352-292-3079.



**Coffee Hour Help:** Open Bible is in need of men and women to help in the kitchen on Sundays for our Fellowship hour after the 9:30am Worship Service. Please sign-up today!

## Happy Anniversary

Arline & John Kiewra – 5  
Mike & Pat Holmes – 8  
Ed & Sandy Richesson – 11  
Steve & Nancy Kuepker - 15  
Jim & Marion Petrie – 16  
Mel & Susan Parker - 21  
Ron & Joanne Stuedemann – 27

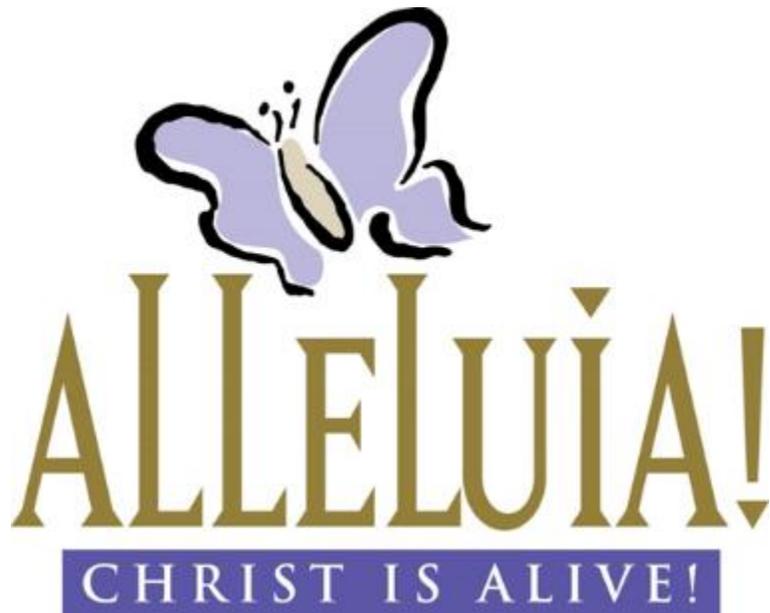


# Happy Birthday

Gene McConkey – 4  
Norma Phillips – 5  
Jim Petrie – 6  
Mark Mehlberg - 6  
Jerry Brooks – 10  
Walt Farnsworth – 10  
Barb Matthias – 11  
Amy Hand – 13  
Michael Davis - 14  
Shane Thise – 20  
Marion Petrie – 22  
Bill Stocks – 22  
Mike Butzow – 23  
Huns Gustrowsky – 27  
Pastor Rodger Dale – 29



***Easter Sunday April 1st: The Triumph Word: "He is risen!" (Mark 16:6)***





***Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Pastor Mark M Schulz  
4671 Bellwether Lane  
Oxford, FL 34484  
352-753-9038, 989-525-5514***

***“Growing in Christ through the Word, Making His Salvation Known”***  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)  
[www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com](http://www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com)



Scan this image with your iPhone or iPad and go immediately to our web site.